The Description Of Nature – Antelope, Ass, Birds, Eagle and An Ostrich In Pre-Islamic Poetry With Special Reference To The Diwan Imru Al-Qays

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Nature (Ba’labakki, 1982)

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1. جوهر الخلاقية ومهيمنة في الكون (ب) قوة بائائية أو مجموع من القوى البائائية (كالمغامات الج) في فردما
2. ضرب: نوع
3. بنية المعتمد أو حاوزه الطبيعية
4. السجية (كالمغام) (The study of)
5. العالم الخارجي بكامله
6. ( The study of)
7. حالة الإنسان الأصلية أو الطبيعية
8. المشاهدة الطبيعية

Nature (Kirpatrick, 1983)

The power that creates and regulates the world. The power of growth: the established order of things: the cosmos: the external world, esp. as untouched by man: the qualities of anything which make it what it is: Essence: being: constitution: kind or order – naturalness: normal/feeling: kindliness: conformity to truth, or reality: inborn mind, character, instinct, or disposition: vital power of man, animal (obs): course of life: nakedness: a primitive undomesticated condition: the strength or substance of anything.

I academically brave myself to examine the nature in the Diwan Imru al-Qays. He is poetically that a well-known and a great poet during the pre-Islamic period.

Animals:
Antelope:
The Dung

You see that the dung of the white antelopes in its court and depressed plains is like the seeds of the pepper.

Nobility

Her neck is like the neck of the white-entelope, not ugly, when raised, nor undorned with jewels.

You think that Salma is still watching a young, wild antelope or eggs in the frequented river-bed.

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Night with Sulaima during which she showed you well-set teeth and a neck, like that of an antelope, not unadorned.

He has the flanks of an antelope and the legs of an ostrich, the swift run of a lion and the gallop of a horse.

He has the flanks of a buck, the legs of an ostrich and the back of a wild ass standing upon an outpost.

Ass:

Emanation

On a large-strong swift she-camel – it is as though its saddle were on a wild ass of many colours but not white in the groin.

Its lungs wheeze through out all the black night, as sings the water-carrier of the boon-companions.

Slender – waisted, toothless, of the wild-asses of  Imayah; it spits out the herbage whenever it stops to drink.

Nobility:

She turns from me and shows her full and smooth face; afraid – her glancing eyes like the wild beasts with young offspring at Wajrah.

Prey for the hunt:

One day after a herd, pure of hide, another after an onager, the mother of her young.

As though the eyes of the wild beasts around our tents and our saddles were onyx that had not been pierced.

On a large-strong-swift she-camel – it is as though its saddle were on a wild ass of many colours but not white in the groin.

He vies with the wild-ass that kicks its hooves outward, whose mane grows thick, its body, as you can see, resembles a wooden clothes-stand.

Strength:
He has the flanks of a buck, the legs of an ostrich and the back of a wild ass standing upon an outpost.

He has the ribs of a wild ass and the legs of an ostrich, like the strong-noble-stallion-camel looking straight ahead.

**Birds:**

*The dawn chorus*

Sometimes I make my journey in the morning when the birds are still in their nests, on a large – well-bred horses that outstrips the wild beast.

As if in the morning the whistling birds of the desert of Jiwa’ are given an early draught consisting of the first juice of the grape – a strong, pure, spiced wine.

And sometimes I have gone out on the morning when the birds are still in their nests, on a short-haired stallion, thick of leg and swift.

**Birds of prey:** unspecified

As if in the morning the whistling birds of the desert of Jiwa’ are given an early draught consisting of the first juice of the grape – a strong-pure-spiced wine.

As if the hearts of birds, some moist and some dried, by her nest, were the fruit of jujube and dried dates.

And sometimes I go out in the morning, when the birds are still in their nests and the dew-drops run down the length of the horse’s tail.

And sometimes I have gone out in the morning while the birds are still in their nests, on a short-haired stallion, thick of leg and swift.

**Eagle**
I urged on my steed as if on an eagle supple of wing – a hunter.

Snatching the hares of al-Sharabah at noon, even the foxes of Aural hide from it.

Ostrich:

Nobility

She was like the first eggs of an ostrich, which has a mixture between white and yellow, fed with salubrious water where no one has alighted.

Speed

He has the flanks of an antelope and the leg of an ostrich, the swift run of a lion and the gallop of a horse.

He has hard and solid hooves that fear not pain, as if his croup were on an ostrich.

It has the ribs of a wild ass and the legs of an ostrich, like the noble stallion – camel, ever ready to bite.

Annotation

The poet craftily presents the nature in the Diwan such as an antelope – the dung – nobility, ass – emaciation – nobility – prey for the hunt – strength – birds – the dawn chorus – birds of prey – eagle and an ostrich – nobility and speed.

He has poetically demonstrated his craftmanship in lines by poetical comparison, aiming at to prove his lyrical prowess – such as her neck is like the neck of the white antelope – the first “ Good” is functioning as Mushabbah (Mushabbah) and the later as the (Mushabbah bih).

Furthermore, the poet has successfully described the ass in the lines (prey for the hunt)

As though the eyes of the wild beasts around our tents and our saddles were onyx that has not been pierced.

Imru al-Qays has intentionally mentioned the important time of hunting or outing by symbolizing the birds are still in the nests.

Sometimes I make my journey in the morning when the birds are still in their nests, on a large-well-bred horse that outstrips the wild beasts.
And sometimes I have gone out on the morning when the birds are still in their nests to herbage produced by spring rain – he who searches for fodder there will be alone.

وقد أغتدى والطير في وكاتها وماء الندى يجري على كل منتب

And sometimes I go out in the morning, when the birds are still in their nests and the dew-drops run down the length of the horse’s tail.

وقد أغتدى والطير في وكاتها بمنحدر عجل الديدن قييض

And sometimes I have gone out in the morning while the birds are still in their nests, on a short-haired stallion, thick of leg and swift.

Moreover, the poet has carefully elucidated the beauty of the horse by comparative imagination such as

نة أيبطلا طني وسافا نعامة

He has the flanks of an antelope and the leg of an ostrich.

له قصريا غير وسافأ نعامة

It has the ribs of a wild ass and the legs of an ostrich.

Imru al-Qays has dynamically illustrated his craftsmanship in verses by describing the nature in the remote desert – barren land to make them as his companion in his desert journey and to harmonize his soul after separation with his beloved.

References